

**TITLE: A BALLOON PUMP SYSTEM HAVING A PRESSURE RESERVOIR
MUFFLER**

INVENTOR: Williams et al.

10 DOC NO.: DATA_56

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 1. Field of the Invention

10001] The invention relates to an enhanced quieter intra-aortic balloon pump system. More particularly, the invention relates to a muffling device for a vacuum pressure reservoir commonly used in intra-aortic balloon pump systems.

20 2. Description of the Prior Art

10002] Intra-aortic balloon pump therapy is frequently prescribed for patients who have suffered a heart attack or some other form of heart failure. In such therapy, a thin balloon is inserted through an artery into the patient's aorta. The balloon is connected through a series of thin tubes to a complex apparatus which causes the balloon to inflate and deflate repeatedly in time with the patient's heart beat, thereby assuming some of the load of the heart during the patient's recovery period.

30 10003] The inflation/deflation apparatus supplies positive pressure for expanding the balloon during an inflation cycle and negative 10004] pressure for contracting the balloon during a deflation cycle. In a conventional prior art apparatus, shown schematically in FIG.1, an intra-aortic balloon 10 is inserted into a patient's 35 aorta and is connected through small profile catheter 12 and a larger profile extender 14 to an isolator 18 divided by a pliant membrane 20 into an input or primary side 22 and a secondary side 24. The entire volume between membrane 20 and balloon 10 is

5 typically filled with a gas, such as helium, supplied by a gas
source 26. A positive pressure reservoir 28 is connected through
a solenoid valve 30 to the input or primary side 22 of isolator
18. Similarly, a negative pressure reservoir 32 is connected
through a solenoid valve 34 to the input or primary side 22 of
10 isolator 18. The primary side 22 of isolator 18 is also connected
through a solenoid valve 36 to a vent or exhaust port 38. A
compressor 11 is connected to both positive pressure reservoir 28
and negative pressure reservoir 32. By pumping the gas into
pressure reservoir 28 and out of negative pressure reservoir 32
15 at a predetermined rate, compressor 11 assures that positive
pressure reservoir 28 is available, at the necessary capacity,
for each inflate cycle of balloon 10 and that negative pressure
reservoir 32 is available, at the necessary capacity, for each
deflate cycle of balloon 10.

20 [0005] During an inflation cycle, solenoid valve 30 is opened to
permit positive pressure from positive pressure reservoir 28 to
enter primary side 22 of isolator 18. This positive pressure
causes membrane 20 to move toward secondary side 24, thereby
forcing the helium in the secondary side to travel toward and
25 inflate balloon 10. For deflation, solenoid valve 30 is closed
and solenoid valve 36 is opened briefly to vent the gas from
primary side 22, after which valve 36 is closed. Solenoid valve
34 is then opened, whereupon negative pressure reservoir 32
creates a negative pressure on the primary side 22 of isolator
30 18. This negative pressure pulls membrane 20 toward primary side
22, whereby the helium is drawn out from the balloon. Compressor
11 continuously replenishes the positive pressure in positive
pressure reservoir 28 and the vacuum in negative pressure
reservoir 32.

35 [0006] It is desirable in intra-aortic balloon pump therapy to
inflate and deflate the balloon as rapidly as possible. Rapid
cycling permits the therapy to be performed more effectively, and
enables smaller diameter catheters to be used, thereby reducing
the possibility of limb ischemia. Although the prior art system

5 described above permits rapid inflation and deflation cycles, the configuration of this system, specifically the burst of air flow into vacuum reservoir 32 upon the activation of the solenoid valve 34, creates an undesirable "rushing" sound. The vacuum reservoir of the present invention includes a honeycomb structure 10 positioned perpendicular to the jet flow, which spreads the gas stream evenly across vacuum reservoir 32 and reduces the above mentioned "rushing" sound.

15 [0007] Mufflers typically are designed in one of three ways: with staggered baffles, with sound defeating angles or with fiberglass packing. Unlike traditional mufflers, the above mentioned honeycomb structure, does not create significant flow restrictions. Various devices for directing and muffling airflow are known, but the inventors are not aware of any prior use of a honeycomb or similar structure as a muffler; more specifically, 20 the inventors are not aware of any prior incorporation of a honeycomb or other flow straightening structure into a vacuum reservoir for muffling purposes.

25 [0008] While present day intra-aortic balloon pump systems, vacuum reservoirs, and mufflers in general may be suitable for the particular purposes employed, or for general use, they are not as suitable for the purposes of the present invention as disclosed hereafter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

30 [0009] Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to produce a quieter intra-aortic balloon pump system.

[00010] More generally it is an object of the invention to produce a device which muffles the sound produced by the release of a jet 35 of gas or fluid.

[00011] The invention is a vacuum reservoir, for use with an intra-aortic balloon pump or other system, containing a muffling means

5 having a honeycomb-like cell structure or other flow straightening structure.

100012] To the accomplishment of the above and related objects the invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Attention is called to the fact, however, 10 that the drawings are illustrative only. Variations are contemplated as being part of the invention, limited only by the scope of the claims.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

100013] In the drawings, like elements are depicted by like reference numerals. The drawings are briefly described as follows.

100014] FIG 1 is block diagram of a prior art intra-aortic balloon pump system.

100015] FIG 2 is perspective view of vacuum and pressure reservoir unit incorporating the honeycomb structure of the present invention in the vacuum reservoir.

100016] FIG 3 is a perspective view of the vacuum and pressure reservoir of FIG 2 with a side wall removed and the muffling means pulled out.

100017] FIG 4A is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the muffling means having repeating square cells.

30 100018] FIG 4B is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the muffling means having repeating elongated cylindrical cells with varying diameters.

100019] FIG 4C is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the muffling means having repeating elongated cylindrical cells.

35 100020] FIG 4D is a front view of alternate embodiment of the muffling means comprising squares disposed within one another.

100021] FIG 4E is an up close perspective view of the honeycomb muffling means of FIGS 2 and 3 having honeycomb or hexagonal cells.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

10 [00022] FIG 1 illustrates a prior art intra-aortic balloon system 1 comprising an intra-aortic balloon catheter 12, an extender 14 connecting said intra-aortic balloon catheter 12 to an isolator 18, a gas source 26, a compressor 11, a vent 38, and a positive pressure reservoir 28 and negative pressure reservoir 32 connected in parallel between compressor 11 and isolator 18. Intra-aortic balloon catheter terminates in a balloon 10. Isolator 18 comprises an enclosed volume divided by a pliant membrane 20 into a primary side 22 and a secondary side 24. The entire volume between membrane 20 and balloon 10 is typically filled with a gas, such as helium, supplied by gas source 26. Positive pressure reservoir 28 is connected through a solenoid valve 30 to the input or primary side 22 of isolator 18. Similarly, negative pressure reservoir 32 is connected through a solenoid valve 34 to the input or primary side 22 of isolator 18. Both positive pressure reservoir 28 and negative pressure reservoir 32 are essentially empty volumes. Primary side 22 of isolator 18 is also connected through a solenoid valve 36 to a vent or exhaust port 38. Compressor 11 is connected to both positive pressure reservoir 28 and negative pressure reservoir 32. By pumping the gas into pressure reservoir 28 and out of negative pressure reservoir 32 at a predetermined rate, compressor 11 assures that positive pressure reservoir 28 is available, at the necessary capacity, for each inflate cycle of balloon 10 and that negative pressure reservoir 32 is available, at the necessary capacity, for each deflate cycle of balloon 10. A processor or other logic component, not shown, is used to control solenoid valves 30, 34, and 36. Note that solenoid valves 30, 34, and 36 may be replaced with other types of valves

5 or any other known control means for controlling flow known in
the art.

100023] During an inflation cycle, solenoid valve 30 is opened to
permit positive pressure from positive pressure reservoir 28 to
enter primary side 22 of isolator 18. This positive pressure
10 causes membrane 20 to move toward secondary side 24, thereby
forcing the helium in the secondary side to travel toward and
inflate balloon 10. For deflation, solenoid valve 30 is closed
and solenoid valve 36 is opened briefly to vent the gas from
primary side 22, after which valve 36 is closed. Solenoid valve
15 34 is then opened, whereupon negative pressure reservoir 32
creates a negative pressure on the primary side 22 of isolator
18. This negative pressure pulls membrane 20 toward primary side
22, whereby the helium is drawn out from balloon 10. Compressor
00020 11 continuously replenishes the positive pressure in positive
pressure reservoir 28 and the vacuum in negative pressure
reservoir 32.

100024] It is desirable in intra-aortic balloon pump therapy to
inflate and deflate the balloon as rapidly as possible. Rapid
cycling permits the therapy to be performed more effectively, and
enables smaller diameter catheters to be used, thereby reducing
the possibility of limb ischemia. Although the prior art system
described above permits rapid inflation and deflation cycles, the
configuration of this system, specifically the burst of air flow
into vacuum reservoir 32 upon the activation of the solenoid
30 valve 34, creates an undesirable "rushing" sound. FIG 2
illustrates an improved negative pressure reservoir 32 and
positive pressure reservoir 28 attached side-to-side. For
illustration purposes, a corner of the negative pressure
reservoir 32 is cut off so as to expose a muffling means 40,
35 positioned perpendicular to the jet flow, contained within the
negative pressure reservoir 32. Muffling means 40 has a
honeycomb structure. The purpose of honeycomb structure is to
reduce noise upon the entrance of the gas into negative pressure]

5 reservoir 32 through port 44. Negative pressure reservoir 32 and positive pressure reservoir 28 are separated by a shared wall 42, a corner of which is also cut off for illustration purposes.

10 Negative pressure reservoir 32 has a forward wall 50 and a rearward wall 52. Muffling means 40 does not fill the entire negative pressure reservoir 32, gaps exist between forward wall 50 and muffling means 40 and also between muffling means 40 and rearward wall 52. Port 46 provides access to positive pressure reservoir 28. Compressor 11 (FIG 1) is connected to a port 54 (FIG 3) on rearward wall 52 and to a port (not shown) on a

15 rearward end of positive pressure reservoir 28. Note that negative pressure reservoir 32 and positive pressure reservoir 28 may also be made as independent units without a shared wall.

Note further that each reservoir may have a pneumatic regulator (not shown). If the pressure in the reservoir exceeds the regulator's set point, then the regulator vents the reservoir to atmosphere. Note that use any type of reservoir known in the art, including variable volume reservoirs, capable of accommodating muffling means 40 is anticipated.

20 [00025] FIG 3 illustrates muffling means 40 removed from negative pressure reservoir 32 and removable wall 48 detached from negative pressure reservoir 32. Screws 56, or other known attachment means, are used to connect wall 48 to negative pressure reservoir 32. Removal of muffling means 40 exposes port 54.

25 [00026] Although the honeycomb structure for muffling means 40 is preferred, use of any structure, disposed within negative pressure reservoir 32, having walls in-line with the initial direction of the jet flow into negative pressure reservoir 32 is anticipated. Muffling means 40 may comprise repeating cells

30 structures with various arrangements of cells having various shapes and sizes. For example, the circular cells may be arranged in a ring or square with the center empty. FIGS 4A-4C illustrate alternate embodiments of muffling means 40. FIG 4A illustrates a muffling means 40A having square cells. FIG 4B

5 illustrates a muffling means 40B having cylindrical cells with
diameters that are tapered toward the center. FIG 4C illustrates
a muffling means 40C with cylindrical cells. FIG 4D illustrates
a muffling means 40D comprising multiple squares disposed within
one another. This type of arrangement of shape-within-a-shape is
10 anticipated for other geometries as well, including hexagons and
circles. FIG 4E illustrates the hexagonal cells of honeycomb
structure 40 up close.

100027] Note also the present invention is not limited to intra-
aortic balloon pump systems. The muffling means may be used in
15 negative pressure reservoirs in any type of mechanical system
requiring noise reduction.

100028] As many apparently widely different embodiments of the
present invention can be made without departing from the spirit
and scope thereof, it is to be understood that the invention is
not limited to the specific embodiments thereof except as defined
20 in the appended claims.

20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
698
699
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
798
799
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
898
899
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
998
999
999
1000
1001
1002
1003
1004
1005
1006
1007
1008
1009
1009
1010
1011
1012
1013
1014
1015
1016
1017
1018
1019
1019
1020
1021
1022
1023
1024
1025
1026
1027
1028
1029
1029
1030
1031
1032
1033
1034
1035
1036
1037
1038
1039
1039
1040
1041
1042
1043
1044
1045
1046
1047
1048
1049
1049
1050
1051
1052
1053
1054
1055
1056
1057
1058
1059
1059
1060
1061
1062
1063
1064
1065
1066
1067
1068
1069
1069
1070
1071
1072
1073
1074
1075
1076
1077
1078
1079
1079
1080
1081
1082
1083
1084
1085
1086
1087
1088
1089
1089
1090
1091
1092
1093
1094
1095
1096
1097
1098
1098
1099
1099
1100
1101
1102
1103
1104
1105
1106
1107
1108
1109
1109
1110
1111
1112
1113
1114
1115
1116
1117
1118
1119
1119
1120
1121
1122
1123
1124
1125
1126
1127
1128
1129
1129
1130
1131
1132
1133
1134
1135
1136
1137
1138
1139
1139
1140
1141
1142
1143
1144
1145
1146
1147
1148
1149
1149
1150
1151
1152
1153
1154
1155
1156
1157
1158
1159
1159
1160
1161
1162
1163
1164
1165
1166
1167
1168
1169
1169
1170
1171
1172
1173
1174
1175
1176
1177
1178
1179
1179
1180
1181
1182
1183
1184
1185
1186
1187
1188
1189
1189
1190
1191
1192
1193
1194
1195
1196
1197
1198
1198
1199
1199
1200
1201
1202
1203
1204
1205
1206
1207
1208
1209
1209
1210
1211
1212
1213
1214
1215
1216
1217
1218
1219
1219
1220
1221
1222
1223
1224
1225
1226
1227
1228
1229
1229
1230
1231
1232
1233
1234
1235
1236
1237
1238
1239
1239
1240
1241
1242
1243
1244
1245
1246
1247
1248
1249
1249
1250
1251
1252
1253
1254
1255
1256
1257
1258
1259
1259
1260
1261
1262
1263
1264
1265
1266
1267
1268
1269
1269
1270
1271
1272
1273
1274
1275
1276
1277
1278
1279
1279
1280
1281
1282
1283
1284
1285
1286
1287
1288
1289
1289
1290
1291
1292
1293
1294
1295
1296
1297
1298
1298
1299
1299
1300
1301
1302
1303
1304
1305
1306
1307
1308
1309
1309
1310
1311
1312
1313
1314
1315
1316
1317
1318
1319
1319
1320
1321
1322
1323
1324
1325
1326
1327
1328
1329
1329
1330
1331
1332
1333
1334
1335
1336
1337
1338
1339
1339
1340
1341
1342
1343
1344
1345
1346
1347
1348
1349
1349
1350
1351
1352
1353
1354
1355
1356
1357
1358
1359
1359
1360
1361
1362
1363
1364
1365
1366
1367
1368
1369
1369
1370
1371
1372
1373
1374
1375
1376
1377
1378
1379
1379
1380
1381
1382
1383
1384
1385
1386
1387
1388
1389
1389
1390
1391
1392
1393
1394
1395
1396
1397
1398
1398
1399
1399
1400
1401
1402
1403
1404
1405
1406
1407
1408
1409
1409
1410
1411
1412
1413
1414
1415
1416
1417
1418
1419
1419
1420
1421
1422
1423
1424
1425
1426
1427
1428
1429
1429
1430
1431
1432
1433
1434
1435
1436
1437
1438
1439
1439
1440
1441
1442
1443
1444
1445
1446
1447
1448
1449
1449
1450
1451
1452
1453
1454
1455
1456
1457
1458
1459
1459
1460
1461
1462
1463
1464
1465
1466
1467
1468
1469
1469
1470
1471
1472
1473
1474
1475
1476
1477
1478
1479
1479
1480
1481
1482
1483
1484
1485
1486
1487
1488
1489
1489
1490
1491
1492
1493
1494
1495
1496
1497
1498
1498
1499
1499
1500
1501
1502
1503
1504
1505
1506
1507
1508
1509
1509
1510
1511
1512
1513
1514
1515
1516
1517
1518
1519
1519
1520
1521
1522
1523
1524
1525
1526
1527
1528
1529
1529
1530
1531
1532
1533
1534
1535
1536
1537
1538
1539
1539
1540
1541
1542
1543
1544
1545
1546
1547
1548
1549
1549
1550
1551
1552
1553
1554
1555
1556
1557
1558
1559
1559
1560
1561
1562
1563
1564
1565
1566
1567
1568
1569
1569
1570
1571
1572
1573
1574
1575
1576
1577
1578
1579
1579
1580
1581
1582
1583
1584
1585
1586
1587
1588
1589
1589
1590
1591
1592
1593
1594
1595
1596
1597
1598
1598
1599
1599
1600
1601
1602
1603
1604
1605
1606
1607
1608
1609
1609
1610
1611
1612
1613
1614
1615
1616
1617
1618
1619
1619
1620
1621
1622
1623
1624
1625
1626
1627
1628
1629
1629
1630
1631
1632
1633
1634
1635
1636
1637
1638
1639
1639
1640
1641
1642
1643
1644
1645
1646
1647
1648
1649
1649
1650
1651
1652
1653
1654
1655
1656
1657
1658
1659
1659
1660
1661
1662
1663
1664
1665
1666
1667
1668
1669
1669
1670
1671
1672
1673
1674
1675
1676
1677
1678
1679
1679
1680
1681
1682
1683
1684
1685
1686
1687
1688
1689
1689
1690
1691
1692
1693
1694
1695
1696
1697
1698
1698
1699
1699
1700
1701
1702
1703
1704
1705
1706
1707
1708
1709
1709
1710
1711
1712
1713
1714
1715
1716
1717
1718
1719
1719
1720
1721
1722
1723
1724
1725
1726
1727
1728
1729
1729
1730
1731
1732
1733
1734
1735
1736
1737
1738
1739
1739
1740
1741
1742
1743
1744
1745
1746
1747
1748
1749
1749
1750
1751
1752
1753
1754
1755
1756
1757
1758
1759
1759
1760
1761
1762
1763
1764
1765
1766
1767
1768
1769
1769
1770
1771
1772
1773
1774
1775
1776
1777
1778
1779
1779
1780
1781
1782
1783
1784
1785
1786
1787
1788
1789
1789
1790
1791
1792
1793
1794
1795
1796
1797
1798
1798
1799
1799
1800
1801
1802
1803
1804
1805
1806
1807
1808
1809
1809
1810
1811
1812
1813
1814
1815
1816
1817
1818
1819
1819
1820
1821
1822
1823
1824
1825
1826
1827
1828
1829
1829
1830
1831
1832
1833
1834
1835
1836
1837
1838
1839
1839
1840
1841
1842
1843
1844
1845
1846
1847
1848
1849
1849
1850
1851
1852
1853
1854
1855
1856
1857
1858
1859
1859
1860
1861
1862
1863
1864
1865
1866
1867
1868
1869
1869
1870
1871
1872
1873